

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6215

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CG, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR REPLIES TO CHARGES IN SALONGO

1. ON JAN. 15, LOCAL DAILY SALONGO PUBLISHED UNDER BANNER HEADLINES FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS FROM ADDIS ABABA, CHARGING NIGERIA AND GUINEA HAD BEEN PAID 40 MILLION RUBLES BY SOVIET UNION TO SUPPORT MPLA. ON JAN. 16, NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE, ENAHORO, WROTE LETTER TO EDITOR DENYING ALLEGATION. LETTER, WHICH CIRCULATED TO ALL EMBASSIES, HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT:

2. "YOUR ISSUE OF 15TH JANUARY, 1976, CONTAINS A FRONT PAGE BANNER HEADLINE ENTITLED: "GUINEA AND NIGERIA HAVE RECEIVED 40 MILLION ROUBLES FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO SUPPORT THE MPLA."

3. I CAN UNDERSTAND THE FRUSTRATION WHICH CAUSED YOU TO PUBLISH THIS LIBEL AGAINST MY COUNTRY BUT I WONDER NEVERTHELESS IF YOU SUBSCRIBE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE REVOLUTION FOR WHICH THE MPR STANDS. ONE OF THE CARDINAL PRINCIPLES OF THAT REVOLUTION IS A CONTINUING FIGHT AGAINST 'MENTAL ALIENATION'.

4. IT IS A WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT NIGERIA, UNLIKE SOME OTHER COUNTRIES HAS NO BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS. WHY THEN WOULD SHE NEED TO OBTAIN MONEY FROM THE SOVIET UNION, OR ANY POWER, TO HELP THE ANGOLANS? NIGERIA FOUGHT A CRIPPLING CIVIL WAR FOR TWO AND A

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HALF YEARS AT A TIME WHEN THE NATIONAL REVENUES HAD TO BE VERY

CAREFULLY HUSBANDED AND RECEIPTS FROM THE OIL SECTOR WERE INFINITESIMAL COMPARED WITH TODAY'S FIGURES. NEVERTHELESS, WE PAID FOR ALL THE WEAPONS NEEDED AND SOUGHT NO EXTERNAL FINANCING OR ANY FORM OF AID. CAN YOU, MR. EDITOR, OR YOUR CORRESPONDENT GIVE A CONVINCING REASON WHY NIGERIA, AT A TIME OF RELATIVE PROSPERITY, SHOULD NOW BE DEPENDENT ON SOVIET MONEY? CAN I DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT 40 MILLION ROUBLES IS NOT WORTH MORE THAN 3 MILLION DOLLARS\*

5. CAN IT BE, MR. EDITOR, THAT YOU FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE THAT FELLOW AFRICANS CAN BE IMPELLED TO CERTAIN POLICIES OUT OF CONVICTION? IF YOU PICKED UP THIS "NEWS ITEM" FROM A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT IS IT NOT THE PURPOSE OF THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT THAT YOU ARE SERVING/GIVING UNQUESTIONING PUBLICITY TO IT? WE ARE CONSTANTLY REMINDED IN YOUR PAGES OF ZAIRE'S AFRICAN VOCATION. ANY EDITOR WHO IS CONSCIOUS OF THIS WOULD HAVE DISMISSED THIS "NEWS ITEM" AS UNWORTHY, AND AS AN INSULT TO A BROTHER AFRICAN COUNTRY WHOSE ACTIONS IN THE ANGOLAN IMBROGLIO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OPEN AND HONOURABLE. FOR THE BENEFIT OF YOUR READERS, I TRUST THAT YOUR LAPSE IN FAILING TO BE VIGILANT AGAINST MENTAL ALIENATION ON THIS OCCASION WILL NOT BE REPEATED. DO NOT FORGET, MR. EDITOR, THAT ZAIRE IS AN AFRICAN COUNTRY AND THAT WE ARE ALL JUDGED BY THE SAME STANDARDS. IF YOU GLEEFULLY PRINT LIBELS AGAINST FELLOW AFRICANS IMPLYING DISHONOURABLE MOTIVES SOME OF THE DIRT WILL ALWAYS FALL ON THOSE WHO THROW IT.

6. MY GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR ITS RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA AS ANGOLA'S LEGAL GOVERNMENT IS THE INTERVENTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN RACISTS ON THE SIDE OF THE FNLA/UNITA ALLIANCE. SOUTH AFRICA HAS HERSELF ADMITTED THE INVOLVEMENT OF HER TROOPS. I AM SURE YOU WILL, AS AN AFRICAN, AGREE THAT NO BLACK MAN WORTHY OF THE NAME CAN JUSTIFY HIS CAUSE IF HE FINDS IT NECESSARY TO EMPLOY THE SERVICES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRACTITIONERS OF APARTHEID TO ACHIEVE HIS OBJECTIVES.

7. MAY I ALSO ADD THAT THE ASSISTANCE OF 20 MILLION DOLLARS GIVEN BY NIGERIA SO FAR TO THE MPLA, HAS BEEN FOR RELIEF AND ADMINISTRATION AND NOT FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. I AM SURE YOUR READERS WILL AGREE THAT IT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE FOR THE SOVIET UNION TO GIVE MONEY TO NIGERIA OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY FOR THE MPLA

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TO ARM ITSELF WITH WEAPONS FROM THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, IT BEING NO SECRET THAT THE MPLA DOES NOT PURCHASE WEAPONS FROM ANY WESTERN SOURCES. OR WOULD YOU HAVE US BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIET UNION DOES NOT KNOW ITS WAY TO THE MPLA OR VICE VERSA?

8. FINALLY, MR. EDITOR, I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD IN OBSERVANCE OF JOURNALISTIC USAGE, PUBLISH THIS LETTER IN FULL AND WITHOUT SELECTIVE DELETIONS. IF YOU FIND THIS IMPOSSIBLE, I AM

PREPARED TO PAY FOR FULL UNEDITED PUBLICATION AS AN ADVERTISEMENT.

SINGED E.O. ENAHORO,  
AMBASSADOR

CUTLER

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